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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 9

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H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER :
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD

NEWTON ABBOT.

TELEPHONE No. NEWTON ABBOT 571

NEWTON ABBOT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT - 1959

Mr Chairman and Councillors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my report for the year ended 31st. December, 1959.

The Vital Statistics call for little comment, the Birth rate, Death rate, and Infant Mortality rates all differing very little from the figures relating to the County of Devon and those of England and Wales.

Regarding the Infectious diseases which have been notified, the only change has been due to the increase in the incidence of Measles from 102 cases in 1958 to 189 cases for the current year.

Only one case of Poliomyelitis was reported in 1959: no cases were reported in the previous year. The incidence of this disease has shown considerable variation over the years and it has never been possible to predict the likelihood of an epidemic. It is probable, however, that the vaccination campaign is now beginning to show results, and one cannot stress too much the importance of all persons in the eligible age groups taking the protection which is available to them.

Once again no cases of Diphtheria were notified. This fact is without doubt due to the protection which has been given by immunisation, and one only hopes that parents will continue to appreciate the need for these inoculations and will not allow themselves to be lulled into a sense of false security by the

fact that very few cases of Diphtheria now occur in this country. Diphtheria is still a very serious and deadly disease and would spread rapidly and with devastation through an unprotected community.

Housing continues to be a problem in this Rural area and from time to time I endeavour to influence the various committees which allocate Council houses where there are strong medical grounds. Most cases of need are, of course, due to overcrowding. In these cases I feel that the facts are obvious to the committees and I am aware too, that their local knowledge of housing conditions in the parishes must be greater than mine. What does impress me is the fact that so many of the Council's houses in the District are being comparatively wasted. Examples can be given in many parishes of three bedroomed houses being occupied by one or two old people.

I feel that if the policy regarding Housing can be roughly defined as being an attempt to use the accommodation available to the best advantage of those requiring it, then it would seem essential that the Council should, by all means in its power, encourage transfers between existing tenants in order that the houses should not be wasted by under occupation.

I appreciate that these views may be opposed by many people and would add that they represent my opinion and not necessarily that of the Council.

Finally I would like to thank the Chairman and all members of the Council and staff for their continued co-operation and help.


I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health

May, 1961.



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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	92,650
Population Mid 1959	25,980
Population 1951 Census	25,795
Population Administrative County of Devon	521,200
Rateable Value as at the 1st. January, 1959	£244,255
Rateable Value as at the 31st. December, 1959	£265,066
Product of 1d. rate as at 31st. March, 1959	£ 934

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	175	157	332
Illegitimate	5	6	11
	<hr/> 180	<hr/> 163	<hr/> 343
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			13.20
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population			15.31
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			13.65
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			15.42
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			16.5

Still Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	6	7
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 8
Still Birth rate per 1000 total population			0.31
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births			22.79
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births Administrative County of Devon			18.27
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births England and Wales			21.0

DEATHS

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 71.2 years. It is of interest to note that the average age of all male deaths is 67.02 years and for female deaths 75.88 years.

	Male	Female	Total
	179	168	347
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population			13.36
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population			11.08
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			14.27
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			11.13
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			11.6

Infant Mortality

(Death of Infants under One year)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births			17.49
Infant Mortality rate England and Wales			22.2

Neo-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under 4 weeks)			11.66
Neo-Natal Mortality rate England and Wales			15.8

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the Newton Abbot Rural District during 1959. Three maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH

	Male	Female
Infants under Four weeks	4	1
Infants under One year	1	-
1 - 4	-	-
5 - 14	-	-
15 - 24	3	-
25 - 44	4	-
45 - 64	49	21
65 - 74	53	46
75 and over	65	100
	<hr/> 179	<hr/> 168

Total: 347

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
All causes	179	168
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Tuberculosis, other	1	1
Syphilitic disease	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	40
Coronary disease, angina	36	25
Hypertension with heart disease	6	5
Other heart disease	19	25
Other circulatory disease	7	2
	<hr/> 124	<hr/> 133
carried forward	124	133

CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male	Female
brought forward	124	133
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	2	3
Bronchitis	9	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	6	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
Congenital malformations	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	18	15
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2
All other accidents	5	3
Suicide	4	-
	<hr/> 179	<hr/> 168

Total: 347

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	1	3
Whooping Cough	4	2	6
Polio my elitis	-	1	1
Measles	102	87	189
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Erysipelas	1	3	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	1
	<hr/> 111	<hr/> 94	<hr/> 205

Total: 205

TUBERCULOSIS

Six cases of pulmonary and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1959. Details are set out in the following table:-

<u>AGE PERIODS</u>			<u>CASES</u>			
			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F
Under Five years			—	—	—	—
5	—	14	1	—	—	—
15	—	24	1	1	—	—
25	—	44	1	—	—	1
45	—	64	2	—	—	—
65	and over		—	—	—	—
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			5	1	—	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total: 7

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No official action was necessary under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 during 1959.

NEWTON ABBOT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1959

STAFF:

Chief Public Health Inspector

A. R. Gray, C.R.S.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

A. R. Smith, M.A.P.H.I.

Shorthand-Typist/Clerk

Miss A. P. Clark.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr Chairman and Councillors,

I submit herewith the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

Details of inspections made are set out in the following pages:-

DRAINAGE:

Number of premises visited	156
Number of tests applied	35
Number of visits made	224

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:

1. <u>Inspections</u>	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i. Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	15	114	2	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	139	220	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	13	13	-	-

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (Cont'd)

2. Cases in which defects were found

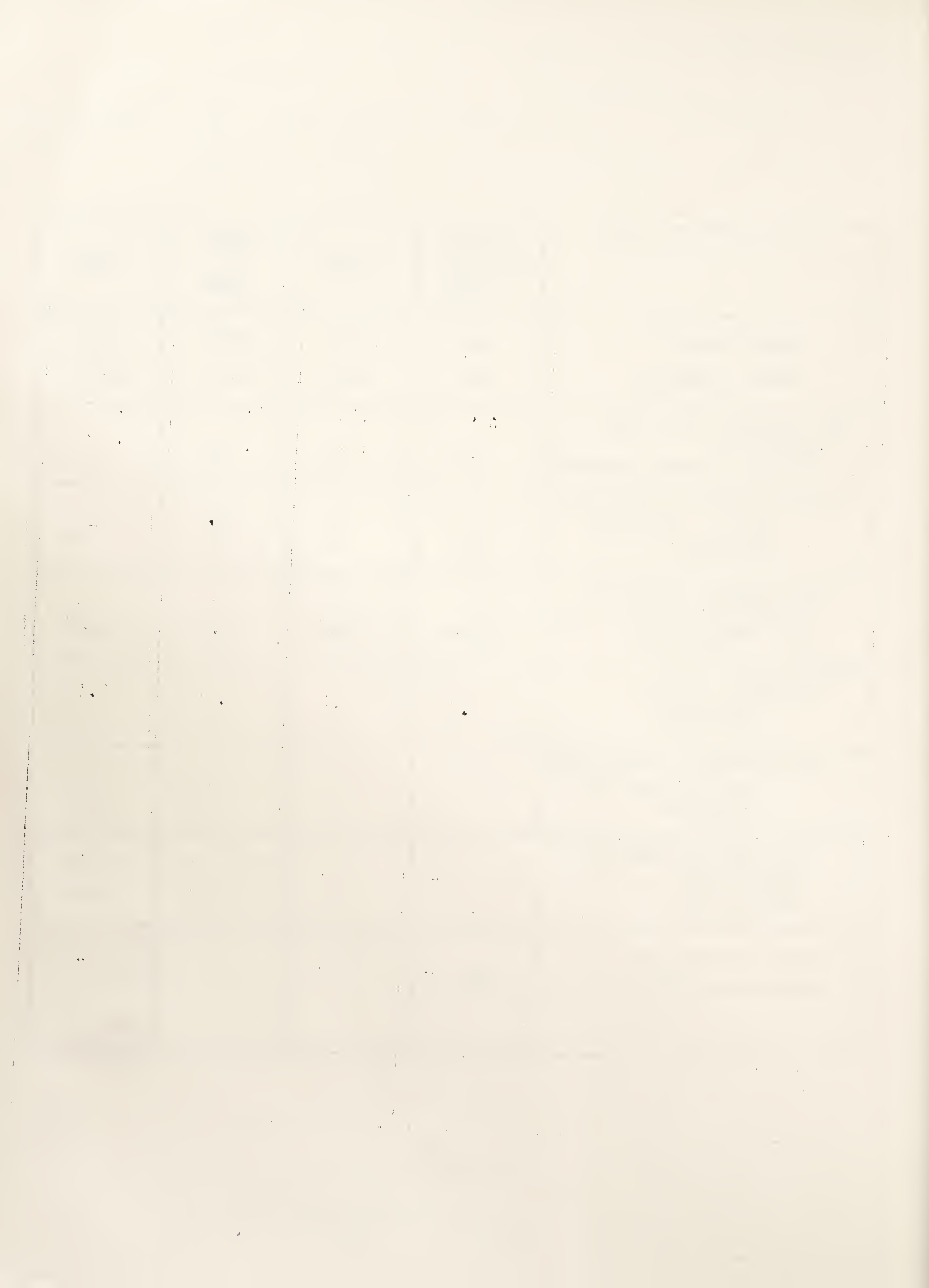
	Found	Remedied	Ref. to H.M. Insp.	Ref. by H.M. Insp.	Prosecution
<u>No. of cases in which defects were found:-</u>					
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)					
(a) insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	3	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION:

During the course of the year, the following foodstuffs have been found to be unfit for human consumption:-

1 Can Cooked Ham	3 Cans Evap. Milk	7 Cows & organs
3 " corned beef	1 " Baked Beans	
1 " Ox Tongue	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. boxes Milk Tray	
2 " Luncheon Meat	1 Jar Marmalade	
10 " Peaches	1 Can Rice	
6 " Fruit Salad	1 " Pilchards	
3 " Plums	1 " Tomatoes	
7 " Pineapples	1 Jar Mincemeat	
22 " Prunes	7 Boxes Cheeses	
2 " Oranges	1 Pkt Sage & Onion Stuffing	
1 " Pears	1 " Weetabix	
2 " Syrup	1 Small White Loaf	
4 Jars Jam	1 Pkt Cream Crackers	
1 Can Beans	12 Boxes Potatoes (4,680 lbs)	
2 " Coca	11 Bullocks and organs	
3 " Soup	35 Sheep " "	

	CATTLE (including Cows)	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS
NUMBER KILLED	805	131	3,264	1,663
NUMBER INSPECTED	805	131	3,264	1,663
All diseases other than Tuberculosis				
(i) Whole carcass condemned	11	7	35	-
(ii) Carcass of which some part of organ was condemned	156	1	42	22
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis	20.74	6.10	2.35	1.32
Tuberculosis only				
(i) Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-
(ii) Carcass of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	5	11
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis	-	-	5	.66
Number of cases of Cysticercus Bovis	Nil			



FOOD INSPECTION Cont'd

ICE CREAM:

Number of premises registered for the Sale of Ice Cream is 104. There are no premises in the district where ice cream is produced and no ice cream is sold from "bulk" supplies. All the premises registered above sell only the "prepacked" product. Frequent visits are made to ensure compliance with the "Hygiene Regulations" emphasis being placed on the requirement that no packages are to be opened for the purpose of retail sale.

GENERAL:

1,064 visits were made during the year to the various slaughterhouses in the district for meat inspection.

189 visits were made during the year to other food premises.

HOUSING:

A summary of the work carried out under this heading is as given below:-

Number of additional dwellings provided by Private enterprise and brought into residential use.

(a) By new Building	146
(b) By structural sub-division	6
(c) Temporary dwellings	2

Number of dwellings inspected 185

Number of inspections made 245

Number of Informal Notices 176

Number of Statutory Notices served:-

(a) under Section 9, Housing Act, 1957 Nil

(b) under Section 16, Housing Act, 1957 9

Number of dwellings rendered fit 94

MILK AND DAIRIES (General) REGULATIONS, 1959

28 Principal Licences and 9 Supplementary Licences were issued.

37 Inspections and visits were made in this connection.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

Domestic refuse is collected throughout the Rural District covering 25 Parishes. Statistical details are given below showing operational arrangements:-

Area of district	92,650 acres
Weight of Refuse collected (Est.)	12,590 tons
Population (R. G. Est)	25,980 persons
Weight (Cwts.) per 1,000 population per day	24.44 cwts
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	7,700
Collections made weekly (% of whole)	75 %
Average haul in miles	12 miles
Kerbside Collection (% of whole)	100 %
Total refuse disposed of within the Rural District	12,590 tons
Method of Disposal	Controlled tipping
Number of Collection Areas	46
Weekly Collection (Urbanised Areas)	6
Fortnightly Collection	17
Monthly Collection	18
Quarterly Collection	5

Arrangements made meet the requirements of the district and from time to time it is necessary to re-arrange certain of the rounds to meet requests where new development has taken place.

The tip is regularly treated to control rodent infestation and during the summer season daily treatment with insecticide is carried out to control the infestation by flies the majority of which are brought in with the refuse.

This latter has proved to be a problem of some magnitude but the method of regular daily spraying coupled with the covering of the tip surface and tipping face has produced a marked improvement.

RODENT CONTROL:

As in previous years two treatments of the sewerage systems of the Rural District were carried out. 131 manholes being baited and poisoned on each occasion.

In addition 275 premises were visited for rat infestation.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

Licences to Slaughter or Stun Animals in accordance with the provisions of the above Act were issued to 33 applicants.

Licences were issued to 10 Slaughterhouse Owner/Occupier to cover the period from 1st August, 1959, to 31st October, 1960.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT - WASTE FOODS ORDER 1957:

Administration of the above order ensuring compliance with the requirements relating to Collection, Cooking and feeding of swill to pigs is under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

When requested to accept delegated powers under the Act and Order the Newton Abbot Rural District Council resolved that they would not agree to do so, but would arrange to carry out inspections from time to time and inform the County Public Health Inspector as to their findings.

At the end of the year 21 Pigkeepers had been licenced under the Order.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 269

TENTS, VANS & SHEDS - MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:

- (i) 19 Licences are in force authorising persons to allow land occupied by them within the district to be used as sites for Moveable Dwellings and
- (ii) 59 Licences authorising persons to erect or station, and use such dwellings within the district are also in force, the latter being renewable annually.

Licences are granted subject to the provision of an adequate pure water supply, satisfactory sanitary accommodation and arrangements for the disposal of soil and slop water. The collection and disposal of refuse is carried out in co-operation with the Rural District Council. The lay-out, spacing and conduct of the site generally must comply with standards determined by the Council.

During the Holiday season especially between July and September the influx of caravans and tents increases and a survey is made annually to ensure that water supply points, toilet accommodation and the disposal of refuse are satisfactory and sufficient having regard to the increased usage.

In this connection approximately 43 inspections of sites are made and individual caravans are also given regular attention, altogether 124 inspections were made during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES:

363 Public water supplies samples were taken during the year
284 Samples were equal to a Class I piped supply
79 Samples were contaminated.

A.R. Smith for A.S.M.

December, 1960.

Chief Public Health Inspector

